

Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 2004

Rhode Island Department of Health
Office of Health Statistics
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Introduction

Information is presented here on health risks reported in 2004 among adult Rhode Islanders, based on data from Rhode Island's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral health risk factors that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 years and older in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January through December 2004, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted approximately 333 random-digit dialed telephone interviews each month with adults 18 and older, for a total of 3,999 during the calendar year. The respondents included 1,531 males and 2,468 females; 2,514 had less than a college degree and 1,480 were college graduates. Rhode Island's 2004 survey was conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

In this Report: This report presents data on fifteen health indicators for Rhode Island adults in 2004. The data are presented by gender and by education. "Error" bars represent the 95% confidence limits around the values calculated from the sample data. A 95% confidence limit means there is only a 5% chance that the true value is NOT included within the span of the error bar.

Highlights

- ❖ More than 1 in 2 (56%) Rhode Island adults are overweight, 21% are smokers, 10% lack health care coverage, 30% have no dental care coverage, and 1 in 5 (21%) had an illness in the past year they thought was caused by poor indoor air. (Figure 1)
- ❖ Men have higher rates than women for a number of important health indicators. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of men are overweight vs. 47% of women; 1 in 5 men has no particular place to go if sick or for health advice, compared with 1 in 10 women; 13% of men vs. 7% of women ages 18-64 are uninsured. Women are at higher risk than men for osteoporosis (15% vs. 3%) and for asthma (13% vs. 6%). (Figure 2)
- ❖ Rhode Islanders with less than a college degree (LCD) have higher rates than college graduates (CG) for 14 of the 15 health risk indicators. 14% of LCD adults are uninsured compared with 4% of CG; 20% of LCD persons have had 6 or more teeth removed because of decay or gum disease, almost three times the rate (7%) for CG; 27% of LCD are current smokers, more than twice the proportion (11%) of CG; and 9% of LCD have diabetes, compared with 3% of CG. (Figure 3)

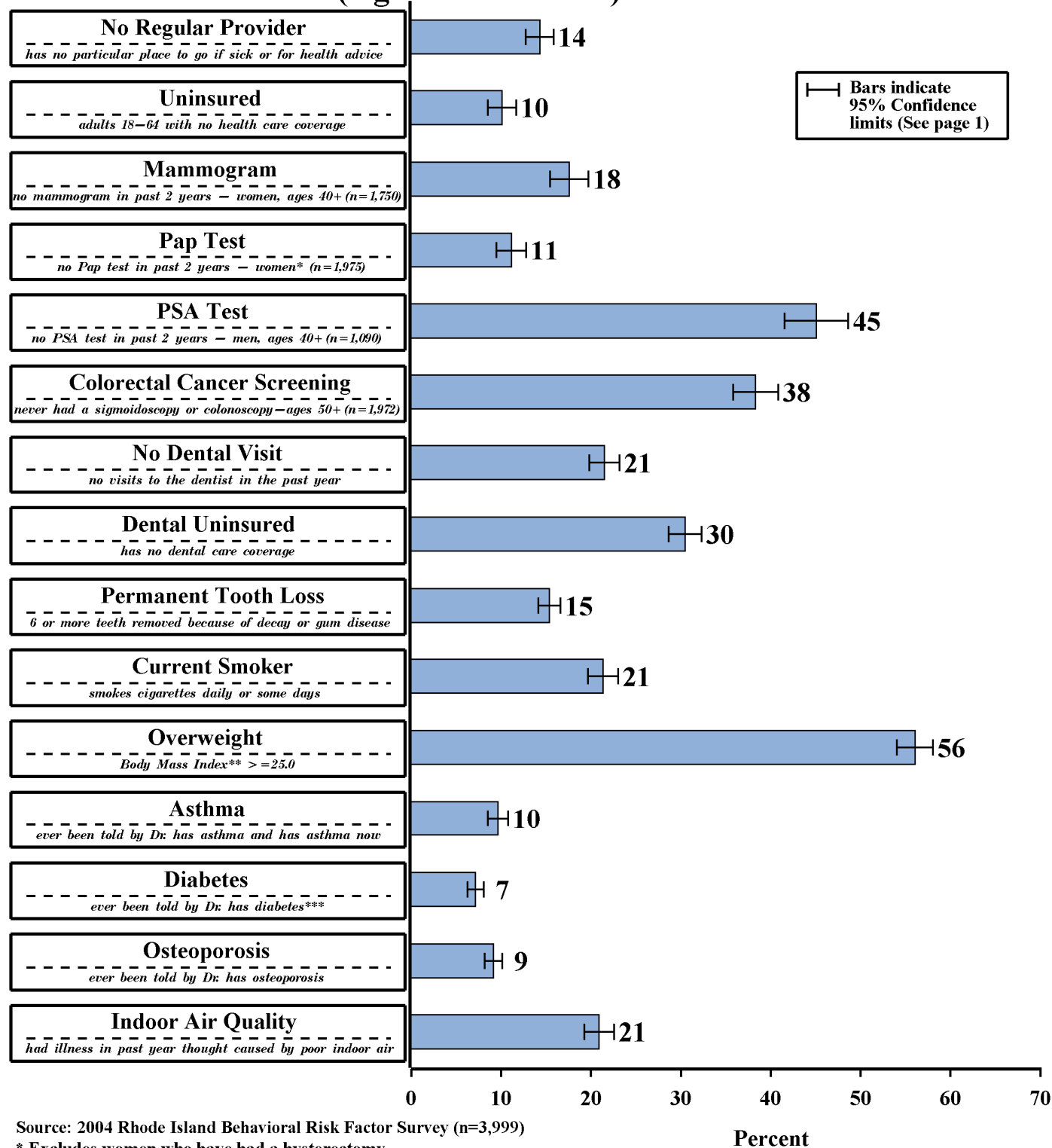


<http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html>. For more information on survey methodology, definitions of health risks, or national or state data, visit the BRFSS web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss> or contact the Office of Health Statistics, Rhode Island Department of Health (Phone: 401-222-2550). This report was prepared by Yongwen Jiang, Ph.D. and Jana E. Hesser, Ph.D..

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Figure 1
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) -- 2004



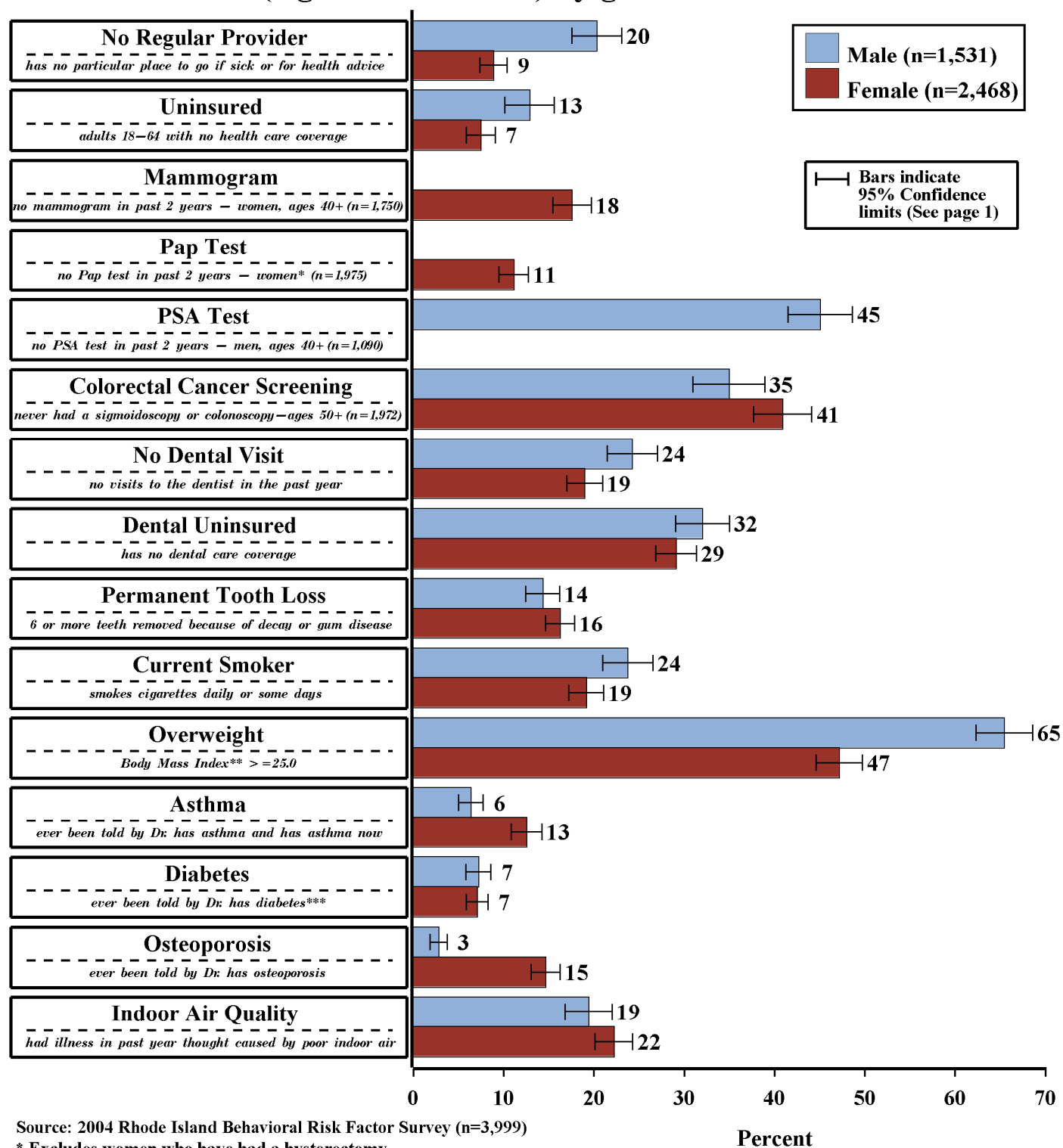
Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

*** Other than during pregnancy

Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by gender -- 2004



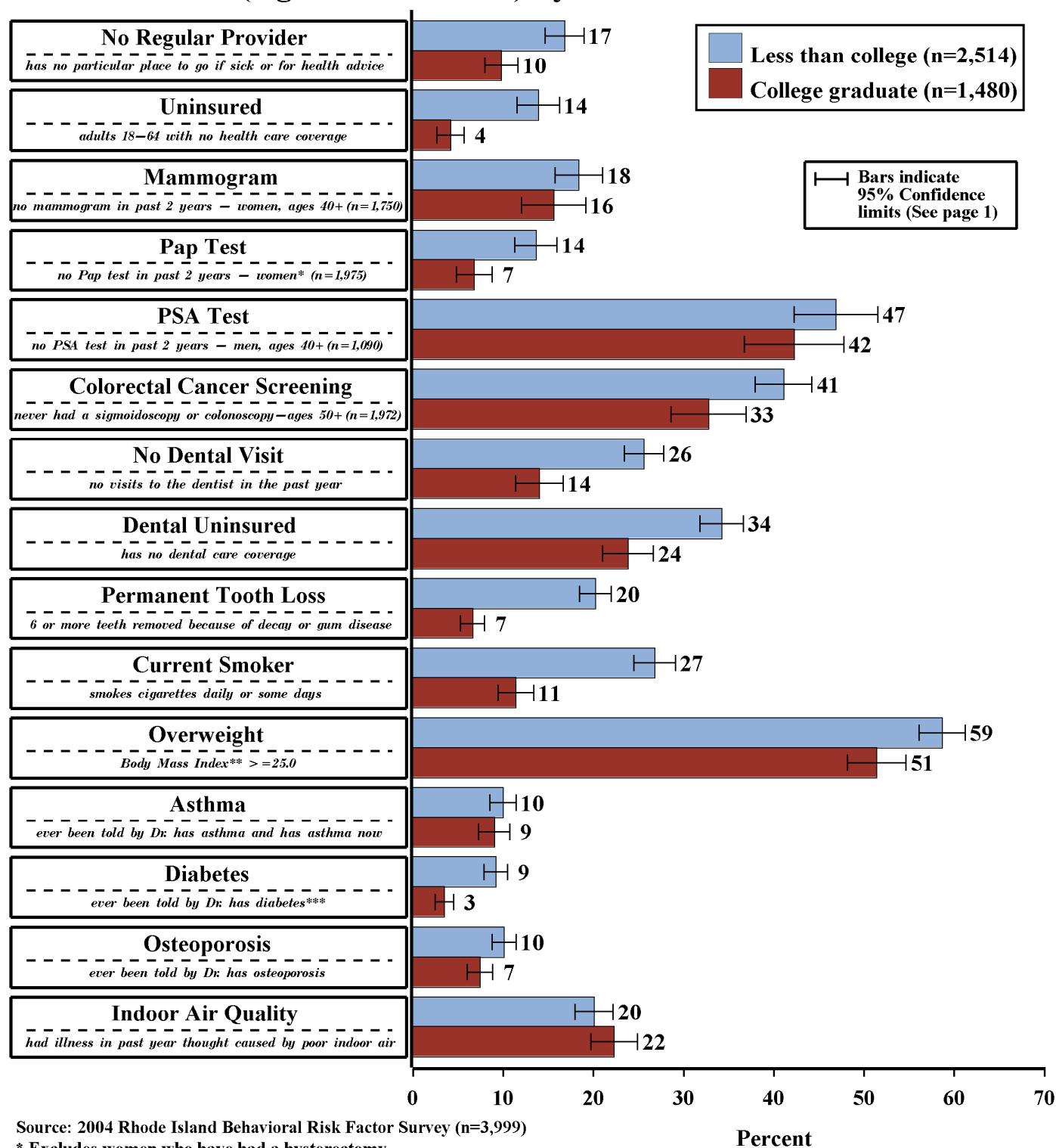
Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

*** Other than during pregnancy

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by education -- 2004



Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

*** Other than during pregnancy